

Message Text

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21/43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-05 FEA-01

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 GSA-02 /076 W

----- 097981

R 291038Z JAN 76 (CCY FOR MCN ONLY)

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6008

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

"/CINCPAC

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 0244

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, LA

SUBJECT: MINING IN LAOS

LOCAL NEWSPAPER "VIENTIANE MAI" CARRIED AN ARTICLE JANUARY 29
QUOTING LAO GOVERNMENT DIRECTOR OF MINES MR. SANGTHONG ON THE
EXPLOITATION OF COAL, POTASH AND TIN IN LAOS. FOLLOWING IS
TEXT OF ARTICLE:

BEGIN QUOTE. IN THE COURSE OF AN INTERVIEW GRANTED YESTERDAY
TO OUR NEWSPAPER, MR. SANGTHONG, DIRECTOR OF MINES, DECLARED
THAT COAL IS NOW BEING MINED IN THE REGION OF BAF DONE-NAM LIK,
MUONG VAN VIENG, VIENTIANE PROVINCE. TENS OF TONS OF THIS
MINERAL HAVE ALREADY BEEN EXTRACTED ANND EXPORTED9 THEY BTQGHT
IN MORE THAN 50 THOUSAND U.S. DOLLARS.

ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTOR, FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS MINED
COAL WILL BE USED INSTEAD OF CHARCOAL. THE COAL IS OF VERY
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GOOD QUALITY, HE ADDED.

MR. SANGTHONG IN ADDITION REMARKED THAT HE IS ONLY WAITING
FOR CREDITS FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPLOIT LAOS'S POTASH

DEPOSITS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT ONE HOLE WILL BE DUG EACH MONTH.

ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTOR, THE POTASH WHICH WILL BE MINED COULD BE SOLD AT BETWEEN 90 AND 110 DOLLARS U.S. A TON ON THE WORLD MARKET. THIS MINERAL YIELDS POTASH, CHEMICAL PRODUCTS AND CHEMICAL FERTILIZER.

MR. SANGTHONG DECLARED AT THE END OF THE INTERVIEW THAT THE TIN AT PHONTIOU IN KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE IS NOW BEING MINED BY A FRENCH COMPANY, THE SOCIETE D'ETUDES ET D'EXPLOITATIONS MINIERES DE L'INDOCHINE (SEEMI). THE MINING COMPANY OF PRINCE BOUN OUM HAS ALREADY BEEN NATIONALIZED. BUT ONLY REASEARCH WORK IS NOW BEING CARRIED ON BY THIS COMPANY, SANTHONG CONCLUDED. END QUOTE.
CORCORAN

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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